

Student Corner
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Student Corner is a weekly blog about the weather in eastern New York, western New England, and beyond. It is maintained by Pathways Student Megan Caldwell.

On August 29th, Hurricane Ida made landfall in the United States as a Category 4 hurricane. Sustained wind speed peaked at [150 miles per hour](#) (mph), and the storm surge overtopped levees. This resulted in the destruction of many historic buildings throughout New Orleans, and the storm knocked out power to over 1 million people in Louisiana alone. Ida also made landfall 16 years to the day of Hurricane Katrina.

After making landfall, Ida continued moving northeast, producing tornadoes in Alabama and weakening into a tropical depression. By the time it reached the Northeast, the remnants of Ida had become an [extratropical low](#), or a low pressure system that contains warm and cold fronts. This resulted in Ida regaining tropical storm strength winds as it moved north.

The Northeast saw devastating flooding from Ida, soaking already wet soils from recent tropical storms Fred and Henri. Many places throughout Connecticut, New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and southern New York saw upwards of [8 or 9 inches](#) of rain. The rapid onset of flooding was deadly, as residents were unable to escape the rising waters. Multiple tornadoes were also produced from this system.

The NWS Albany service area experienced some flooding from Ida, with some regions receiving upwards of five inches of rain. Poughkeepsie recorded 5.57 inches of rain on September 1st, marking the 3rd wettest day on record since records began. The maximum rainfall in our area was 6.81 inches at Beacon.

As of this writing, at least 56 people have died directly from Ida's impacts, and 7 people have died of indirect causes such as repairing power lines. Death tolls were the highest in New Jersey and New York. Flooding is one of the most deadly hazards in any tropical system. Never drive or walk into floodwaters, and seek higher ground when flooding occurs. [Turn Around, Don't Drown!](#)